

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

VERASONICS, INC,

Plaintiff,

v.

SUPERSONIC IMAGINE, S.A.,

Defendant.

CASE NO. 2:17-cv-01764-TSZ

**AGREEMENT
REGARDING
DISCOVERY OF
ELECTRONICALLY
STORED INFORMATION
AND ORDER**

The parties hereby stipulate to the following provisions regarding the discovery of electronically stored information (“ESI”) in this matter:

A. General Principles

1. An attorney’s zealous representation of a client is not compromised by conducting discovery in a cooperative manner. The failure of counsel or the parties to litigation to cooperate in facilitating and reasonably limiting discovery requests and responses raises litigation costs and contributes to the risk of sanctions.

2. The proportionality standard set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1) must be applied in each case when formulating a discovery plan. To further the application of the proportionality standard in discovery, requests for production of ESI and related responses should be reasonably targeted, clear, and as specific as possible.

1 3. Much of Defendant's information may be located in France, and Defendant
2 asserts that it is subject to both French and European Union data protection directives and laws,
3 including but not limited to the General Data Protection Regulation and French Blocking
4 Statute. By entering into this Agreement, Defendant does not waive any of those protections or
5 requirements.

6 **B. ESI Disclosures**

7 Within 53 days after the Rule 26(f) conference, or at a later time if agreed to by
8 the parties, each party shall disclose:

9 1. Custodians. The five custodians most likely to have discoverable ESI in their
10 possession, custody or control. The custodians shall be identified by name, title, connection to
11 the instant litigation, and the type of the information under his/her control.

12 2. Non-custodial Data Sources. A list of non-custodial data sources (e.g. shared
13 drives, servers, etc.), if any, likely to contain discoverable ESI.

14 3. Third-Party Data Sources. A list of third-party data sources, if any, likely
15 to contain discoverable ESI (e.g. third-party email and/or mobile device providers, "cloud"
16 storage, etc.) and, for each such source, the extent to which a party is (or is not) able to
17 preserve information stored in the third-party data source.

18 4. Inaccessible Data. A list of data sources, if any, likely to contain
19 discoverable ESI (by type, date, custodian, electronic system or other criteria sufficient to
20 specifically identify the data source) that a party asserts is not reasonably accessible under
21 Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(2)(B). Section (C)(3)(a)(i) below sets forth data sources and ESI which
22 are not required to be preserved by the parties. Those data sources and ESI do not need to be
23 included on this list.

24 **C. Preservation of ESI**

25 The parties acknowledge that they have a common law obligation to take reasonable
26 and proportional steps to preserve discoverable information in the party's possession, custody

1 or control. With respect to preservation of ESI, the parties agree as follows:

2 1. Absent a showing of good cause by the requesting party, the parties shall not
3 be required to modify the procedures used by them in the ordinary course of business to back-
4 up and archive data; provided, however, that the parties shall preserve all discoverable ESI in
5 their possession, custody or control.

6 2. All parties shall supplement their disclosures in accordance with Rule 26(e)
7 with discoverable ESI responsive to a particular discovery request or mandatory disclosure
8 where that data is created after a disclosure or response is made (unless excluded under
9 (C)(3) or (D)(1)-(2) below).

10 3. Absent a showing of good cause by the requesting party, the following
11 categories of ESI need not be preserved:

- 12 a. Deleted, slack, fragmented, or other data only accessible by forensics.
- 13 b. Random access memory (RAM), temporary files, or other ephemeral
14 data that are difficult to preserve without disabling the operating system.
- 15 c. On-line access data such as temporary internet files, history, cache,
16 cookies, and the like.
- 17 d. Data in metadata fields that are frequently updated automatically, such as
18 last-opened dates (see also Section (E)(5)).
- 19 e. Back-up data that are substantially duplicative of data that are more
20 accessible elsewhere.
- 21 f. Server, system or network logs.
- 22 g. Data remaining from systems no longer in use that is unintelligible on the
23 systems in use.
- 24 h. Electronic data (e.g. email, calendars, contact data, and notes) sent to or
25 from mobile devices (e.g., iPhone, iPad, Android, and Blackberry
26 devices), provided that a copy of all such electronic data is routinely saved
elsewhere (such as on a server, laptop, desktop computer, or “cloud”
storage).
- i. Text messages.

1 **D. Privilege**

2 1. With respect to privileged or work-product information generated after the
3 filing of the complaint, parties are not required to include any such information in privilege logs.

4 2. Activities undertaken in compliance with the duty to preserve information are
5 protected from disclosure and discovery under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(3)(A) and (B).

6 3. Information produced in discovery that is protected as privileged or work
7 product shall be handled as set forth in Paragraph 9 of the January 12, 2018 Stipulated
8 Protective Order entered by the Court in this action.

9 **E. ESI Discovery Procedures**

10 1. On-site inspection of electronic media. Such an inspection shall not be permitted
11 absent a demonstration by the requesting party of specific need and good cause or by
12 agreement of the parties.

13 2. Search methodology. The parties shall timely attempt to reach agreement on
14 appropriate search terms, or an appropriate computer- or technology-aided methodology, before
15 any such effort is undertaken. The parties shall continue to cooperate in revising the
16 appropriateness of the search terms or computer- or technology-aided methodology.

17 In the absence of agreement on appropriate search terms, or an appropriate computer- or
18 technology-aided methodology, the following procedures shall apply:

19 a. A producing party shall disclose the search terms or queries, if any, and
20 methodology that it proposes to use to locate ESI likely to contain discoverable information. The
21 parties shall meet and confer to attempt to reach an agreement on the producing party's search
22 terms and/or other methodology.

23 b. If search terms or queries are used to locate ESI likely to contain
24 discoverable information, a requesting party is entitled to no more than 5 additional terms or
25 queries to be used in connection with further electronic searches absent a showing of good
26 cause or agreement of the parties. The 5 additional terms or queries, if any, must be

1 provided by the requesting party within 30 days of receipt of the producing party's production.

2 c. Focused terms and queries should be employed; broad terms or queries,
3 such as product and company names, generally should be avoided. Absent a showing of
4 good cause, each search term or query returning more than 250 megabytes of data are presumed
5 to be overbroad, excluding Microsoft PowerPoint files, image and audio files, and similarly
6 large file types.

7 d. The producing party shall search both non-custodial data sources and ESI
8 maintained by the custodians identified above.

9 3. Format. The parties agree that ESI will be produced to the requesting party
10 with searchable text, in a format to be decided between the parties. Acceptable formats include,
11 but are not limited to, native files, multi-page TIFFs (with a companion OCR or extracted
12 text file), single-page TIFFs (only with load files for e-discovery software that includes
13 metadata fields identifying natural document breaks and also includes companion OCR and/or
14 extracted text files), and searchable PDF. Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, files that are
15 not easily converted to image format, such as spreadsheet, database and drawing files, should
16 be produced in native format.

17 a. Each document image file shall be named with a unique Bates Number
18 (e.g. the unique Bates Number of the page of the document in question. When a text-
19 searchable image file is produced, the producing party must preserve the integrity of the
20 underlying ESI, i.e., the original formatting, the metadata (as noted below) and, where
21 applicable, the revision history.

22 b. Where Extracted Text is provided, it shall be provided in searchable
23 ASCII text format (or Unicode text format if the text is in a foreign language) and shall be
24 named with a unique Bates Number (e.g. the unique Bates Number of the first page of the
25 corresponding production version of the document followed by its file extension).

1 c. If a document is more than one page, the unitization of the document and
2 any attachments and/or affixed notes shall be maintained as they existed in the original
3 document.

4 4. De-duplication. The parties may de-duplicate their ESI production across
5 custodial and non-custodial data sources after disclosure to the requesting party.

6 5. Metadata fields. Unless otherwise agreed, each party shall produce the
7 following metadata associated with ESI to the extent the metadata already exists and is
8 reasonably accessible: (a) the author(s) of the ESI; (b) the recipient(s) of the ESI; (c) the date
9 the ESI was created; and (d) the source from which the ESI was produced. The “source” of
10 ESI shall be the name of the person who was the custodian of the ESI or, if the name of a
11 person is not available, the storage location (e.g., “Regulatory Shared Drive–Wayne, PA”).
12 This information will be included in the “Author,” “Recipient,” “Date,” and “Source” fields
13 (respectively) for each document in the load file associated with the document images. The list
14 of metadata fields is intended to be flexible and may be changed by agreement of the parties or
15 Court order.

16 6. Privilege Log Based on Metadata. The privilege log shall include a unique
17 identification number for each document and the basis for the claim (attorney-client privileged
18 or work-product protection). For ESI, the privilege log may be generated using available
19 metadata, including author/recipient or to/from/cc/bcc names; the subject matter or title and date
20 created. Should the available metadata provide insufficient information for the purpose of
21 evaluation the privilege claim asserted, the producing party shall include such additional
22 information as required by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

1 DATED: May 1, 2018.

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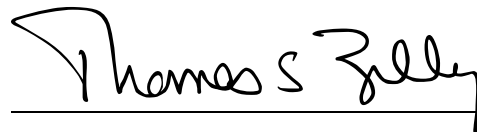
SuperSonic Imagine, S.A.

9 Attorneys for Plaintiff Verasonics, Inc.

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12
13 **ORDER**

14 Based on the foregoing, IT IS SO ORDERED.

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16 DATED: May 2, 2018.

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19 Thomas S. Zilly

20 United States District Judge